

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 RSC-01

SS-20 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193844

INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GERMAN
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

REF: (A) STATE 121044 OF JUNE 7, 1974, (B) STATE 20006 OF
FEBRUARY 1, 1973

1. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (GDR) WERE ESTABLISHED AT 12
NOON WASHINGTON TIME SEPTEMBER 4. DOCUMENTS WERE SIGNED AT
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THAT TIME BY DR. HERBERT SUESS OF THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY

AND ARTHUR A. HARTMAN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS. TEXT OF AGREED COMMUNIQUE AND DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S REPLIES TO PRESS QUESTIONS AT NOON BRIEFING BEING FORWARDED TO POSTS BY WIRELESS FILE. IT IS EXPECTED THAT EMBASSIES WILL BE OPENED IN EAST BERLIN AND WASHINGTON AS SOON AS ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE COMPLETED, PROBABLY BY NOVEMBER 1974. EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE SHORTLY THEREAFTER. IN INTERIM PERIOD BEFORE US EMBASSY OFFICERS ARE IN PLACE, US-GDR MATTERS WILL BE HANDLED BY US MISSION BERLIN AND BY SMALL ADVANCE TEAM OF GDR DIPLOMATS IN WASHINGTON.

2. THE EXISTENCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND GDR WILL ENABLE US TO HANDLE MORE DIRECTLY OUTSTANDING BILATERAL AND MULTI-LATERAL MATTERS (PRIMARILY OF AN

ECONOMIC NATURE) AND TO PROVIDE CONSULAR PROTECTION TO U.S. CITIZENS IN THE GDR. OUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BERLIN AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR NATO ALLY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (FRG), HOWEVER, WILL REMAIN PARAMOUNT AND OF FAR GREATER IMPORTANCE TO OUR NATIONAL INTEREST THAN THE BENEFITS ACCRUING TO US THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE GDR. OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GDR WILL THUS HAVE A SPECIAL CHARACTER. POSTS SHOULD KEEP THESE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND IN INTERPRETING THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATION OF OUTSTANDING INSTRUCTIONS ON THE HANDLING OF GDR DIPLOMATS AND EMBASSIES.

3. ALL PREVIOUS RESTRICTIONS ON US EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH THE GDR ARE HEREBY RESCINDED. GDR EMBASSIES AND DIPLOMATS NOW MAY BE ACCORDED THE SAME TREATMENT AS THOSE OF OTHER WARSAW PACT MEMBER STATES. IN PARTICULAR US EMBASSY OFFICIALS MAY ACCEPT OFFICIAL GDR COMMUNICATIONS AND MAY ACKNOWLEDGE NON-SUBSTANTIVE COMMUNICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL PRACTICE. SUBSTANTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT BY TELEGRAM AND THE POST SHOULD AWAIT INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE EITHER ACKNOWLEDGING OR REPLYING. US DIPLOMATS MAY ALSO ACCEPT INVITATIONS FROM AND EXTEND INVITATIONS TO GDR DIPLOMATS ON THE SAME BASIS AS OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS FROM WARSAW PACT

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COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, US DIPLOMATS SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO ENHANCE THE STATURE OF THE GDR DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN ANY COUNTRY. US TREATMENT OF EAST GERMANS SHOULD BE CORRECT AND EVEN-HANDED, NEITHER HOSTILE NOR OVERLY FRIENDLY.

4. INVITATIONS TO NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS MAY BE EXTENDED AND ACCEPTED. THE GDR IS LIKELY TO ATTEMPT A

MAJOR REPRESENTATIONAL EFFORT THIS OCTOBER IN CELEBRATING ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY. US PARTICIPATION IN RANK AND NUMBER, HOWEVER, SHOULD NOT EXCEED PARTICIPATION IN OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN NATIONAL DAY OBSERVANCES.

5. BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITIES OF FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (WHICH DOES NOT FORMALLY HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GDR BUT HAS EXCHANGED "PERMANENT REPRESENTATIONS" WITH THE GDR IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS THEORY OF THE UNITY OF THE GERMAN NATION) POSTS SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ANY SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH WEST GERMAN REPRESENTATIVES MAY EXPRESS ON RELATIONS WHICH LOCAL GDR REPS, REQUESTING DEPARTMENTAL GUIDANCE SHOULD ANY QUESTION ARISE. INGERSOLL

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